

Gallipolis Journal.

GALLIPOLIS, DECEMBER 31, 1868.

NEWS ITEMS.

The New York Tribune says Gen. Sheridan will certainly be appointed to the command at New Orleans on the 6th of March next.

The New York Sun thinks it can not be wrong in announcing that the Hon. R. B. Washburn will be President Grant's Secretary of the Interior.

The vote of California indicates a population of nearly 900,000.

John Taylor, of Perkiwauke, Virginia, while clearing his gun, accidentally shot dead his little step-daughter, aged seven years.

The New Orleans Picayune says that a mode of driving street-railroad cars by compressed air has been invented and is about to be tried there, which gives promise of complete success.

A Kansas City dispatch says: "An army guide just in from the plains reports that Kansas volunteers joined Gen. Sherman on the 19th inst., on his march to Fort Cobb."

The general intention to eat his Christmas dinner in Camp Supply, where Major James is ordered with a large table of supplies. It is reported that the Indians have driven off all the stock belonging to Gen. Penrose's command. Many of his men were badly frozen.

The Vinton, Ohio, record, of December 17, says: "An insane woman, named Jane A. Laugh, who has been confined in the county jail for some time, died last Friday morning. She appeared to be in her accustomed health, physically, the evening previous. When discovered, she had gnawed off a part of the lower portion of her face."

The lumber regions in the northern part of Wisconsin are infected by mice as if a plague of Egypt had come upon the country. They have overrun the lumber camps, and even drove the horses and cattle from their feed boxes, eat clothing, boots, socks and caps, nest in the beds, &c. Every supply team now going into the "pincies" has a box of cats upon it.

The new nickel coins are to be one-third and five-cent pieces—one-fourth nickel and three-fourths copper. The one-cent coin will weigh a grain and a half, and be about the size of an old-fashioned five-cent piece, while the three and five-cent pieces will weigh three and five grains respectively, and will be about the size of the one and two-cent coins now in use.

A new stock company is being formed in Washington to furnish artificial sliding hills for both the young and old folks. The capital to be invested is \$250,000. Snow mountains of this kind are very popular in Russia.

Colorado claims a right to be admitted as a State, and will press the claim upon Congress immediately.

Spain has sent far more troops to reinforce the army in Cuba, and declares that she will never abandon any of her colonies.

There are more rumors of an organization in New York to aid the Cuban insurgents.

The English cruiser *Nymph* has captured eight slaves off the African coast during the past season.

It has become fashionable in Texas to murder revenue inspectors.

An Allen County, Ohio, journal says:—"On Friday last, the Auditor of Allen County, Major Dowling, discovered that his safe had been robbed of ten thousand dollars, in seven-thirty bonds. Major Dowling knew nothing of the robbery until he received a drop letter through the post office, containing the coupons, which had been cut from the bonds. This led him to make an investigation, which disclosed the robbery. On Tuesday last, we learn that Sam. Dolan, a former clerk in the office, was arrested, charged with the crime."

A house on the farm of Mr. Joseph West, near Pleasant Valley, New York, occupied by the family of one of his hands named Adams, caught fire from some unknown cause, during the absence of both Adams and his wife, on the afternoon of the 23d, and was entirely consumed, together with two children, a boy and a girl, one six years old and the other two, who had been locked up in the house and left alone.

Le Roy Van Pelt, aged twenty, and a bridegroom of six weeks, laid backward on a saw in a portable saw-mill near Coal Run, Washington County, Ohio. The saw entered his back near the spinal column, and reached entirely through his body, mangle his intestines horribly. He died in a few hours.

At a recent meeting of the stockholders of the Blue Ridge Railroad, a committee of five was appointed to repair to Cincinnati and Louisville in the furtherance of their enterprise.

Rev. F. S. Rising, of New York, was one of the passengers on the steamer *United States*, turned on the Ohio. He has not been heard from since the accident.

England and North Germany have concluded a postal treaty by which letters between the two countries will be transmitted for three pence, and an additional article makes arrangements for the extension of the money-order system between the two countries.

Sumner is preparing a speech on finance, in answer to Morton's. Sumner favors speedy resumption of specie payments, adopting in this respect the views of Horace Greely.

The population of St. Louis is 202,000, and that of the country 2,282, an increase of twenty-one per cent. since 1854.

The New York Times says editorially:—"Great Britain has forced down the price of wheat in England to a figure below what will remunerate our farmers, and still pursuing this object, enters upon the winter with a stock of food below what is usual or safe for so large a population. She is now living from hand to mouth. Our whole surplus of food will be required by these States in Europe which were sufferers from drought."

A steamboat accident, more terrible than that which recently occurred on the Ohio river, is reported by cable from the Mediterranean Archipelago, near Smyrna. Two mail steamers collided so violently that more than two hundred passengers are said to have been killed by the shock.

Warlike preparations in Turkey and Greece continue. Some of the Western Powers have little confidence that the proposed conference will succeed in effecting a satisfactory settlement.

Governor Brownlow favors raising East Tennessee into a separate State.

It is stated that the present tax of fifty cents on whisky is producing more revenue than the old tax of two dollars.

The Portsmouth Tribune comes to us enlarged and otherwise improved. It is a good paper, and we are glad to note its prosperity.

Scraps in the History of the Journal.

We cannot better, we think, close up our columns for the year 1868, than in giving a few items in the history of the establishment and progress of the JOURNAL, especially in view of the fact that it is the fiftieth anniversary of its existence.

In May, 1818, the movement for the establishment of a newspaper, in this place, was begun. The following paper—in the handwriting of the late NATHANIEL GATES, the original of which is in our possession, and for which we are indebted to the family of the late ROBERT WATTS, Esq., explains the incipient steps of this movement:—

"The subscribers, believing that a Newspaper published in the Town of Gallipolis, if skillfully edited and well conducted, would greatly tend to diffuse general and useful information, and would add to the growing importance of this flourishing Village, and the country that encircles it; and, understanding that Mr. Josiah Cushing, is possessed of skill, capacity and industry to conduct such an establishment, to the full satisfaction of the community, though destitute of resources to secure its full accomplishment, engaged to pay, at any time after the types, necessary for such an establishment, shall have arrived at this place, an average sum the said types may cost. The said same shall not exceed thirty dollars to each subscriber, on the conditions following, viz: First: The types paid for, shall be the property of the undersigned. Second: The said Cushing shall have the entire use of them, he paying annually the customary price for the use of the types. Third: That whenever the subscribers the money they have advanced, with common interest to be annually computed, in which all the sums previously advanced as rents shall be considered as payments, the said types shall become the property of the said Cushing. Fourth: That until such time as the full amount of the money so advanced, shall be refunded, the subscribers shall have it in their power to take possession of the types at any time, by the consent of two-thirds of the subscribers, provided the said Cushing shall not pay for the use of the types annually, or in case he neglects the business of the establishment, or conducts it in a manner that produces weighty dissatisfaction among his subscribers."

Edw. W. TUPPER, L. C. SHEPARD, JACOB KITTREDGE, THOS. RODGERS, JNO. P. BUREAU, FRANCIS McLEICHER, ROBERT WATTS, J. W. DEYACHT, NATH'L GATES, L. NEWSON, JOHN SANNS, C. ETIENNE, C. R. MENAGER, SAM'L P. VINTON, N. S. CUSHING, RENE CARREL, GEORGE HOUSE, GALLIPOLIS, May 21, 1818."

Of these then prominent citizens of this town, whose names are signed above, all are dead, except one. Gen. LEWIS NEWSON, still a resident of this city, is the only survivor. As these well known citizens were thus instrumental in giving being to this sheet, it is but justice to the act and to their memories that the fact should be recorded, and their names put on public record in the columns of the paper they founded.

The paper was first issued in November of that year, and from that time to this, with but few interruptions, it has been a weekly visitor to the fire-side of the people of this city and county.

We annex the names of the publishers, from the commencement to the present, and in the order in which they served the public, to-wit:—

JOSHUA CUSHING, — TINOLEY, JAMES HANPER, SEN, J. J. COOMBS, A. VANCE, HANPER & NASH, WM. NASH, JAMES HANPER, JR., R. L. STEWART and W. H. NASH.

The building in which the first paper was printed is still standing, although its location has been changed. It is the one on Second street, next above Messrs BAILEY & MAYNARD'S Drug Store, the residence of the late Mr. HENRY MILLER. At that time—in 1818—it stood on the lower side of the Public Square, on the lot now occupied by the brick house of FRANKLIN CARREL, Esq.

The first press was home-made—built under the superintendence of Mr. JOSHUA CUSHING—the frame, wood. With slight alterations and improvements it was kept in the office and used up to 1839, when the first patent lever press was brought into use. That was kept in use until about two years since, when one of WELLS' Superior Cylinder presses was bought to take its place.

In like manner the first issue was small, and printed on the very inferior paper of that day—brown and rough—but its improvement in size and mechanical execution has kept pace with the advancement of the country, until now it is one of the largest country papers in Southern Ohio.

It is said that Brick Pomeroy has not been successful in New York, and that his paper will probably be discontinued. No loss to the public.

The friends of Senator WADE are pressing his claims for a place in Gen. GRANT'S Cabinet. It is stated that Gen. GRANT regards his claims with favor.

A GOOD POLICY.—Speaker COLFAX, in a recent speech at Philadelphia, speaking for the incoming administration, said:

"The most searching retrenchment, honesty, efficiency and high character in all connected with the public service; the rigid guardianship of the Treasury against unwise and extravagant schemes; a financial policy which shall maintain our credit unimpaired, appreciate our currency, and place us on the firm rock of specie payment."

Such a "policy" is what the country needs, and will be thankful for.

Specie Payments.

How shall we return to specie payments? This is the great, all important question just now.—Statesmen and editors are engrossed with it. "For our part we cannot see the necessity of making haste in this matter. We don't believe it can be done by simply saying it shall be. Time and an economical administration of the government—the reduction of expenditures below receipts—will bring it about as soon as a man can't pay his debts when he owes one hundred thousand dollars, and has only fifty thousand of assets, and if he were to advertise that he would meet all liabilities as they were presented, he would soon find himself a bankrupt. And if he should do it upon the theory that the simple announcement of his readiness to pay, though unable to do so, and his creditors knew it, would bring his paper to par, and thus keep it from presentation, every one would say that he was pursuing a very unwise, foolish course. And the judgment of the public would be right. But, if his indebtedness and assets stood in that relation to each other, and his receipts were in excess of his expenditures, he would soon be in a condition to pay up, and thus bring his paper to par. So it will be with the government. The idea of attempting to pay specie on its present indebtedness seems to us to be preposterous and insane. And to us it seems equally unwise, for the sake of immediate specie payments, to bond our greenbacks to an amount that would permit it to be done with a certainty of success. That would be too sudden. It would unsettle values to such an extent as to bring disaster and ruin upon the country. Let the new administration come into power—turn out the thieves—let Congress stop its grants to Railroads—cut off all appropriations not absolutely necessary to carry on the government, and what the immediate interest of the country require—let all departments practice the most rigid economy—see that the revenue laws are honestly enforced—thus bringing our expenditures below our receipts—and specie payments will come in due time, and without any disastrous consequences to the business of the country.

We trust, therefore, that Congress will not attempt to force immediate specie payments. The country is not ready for it. With our present circulation it would fail of success, and an immediate reduction of the currency to a standard that would justify a resumption, would be ruinous to the business interests of the country. Wait. Let the legislation, as we have already suggested, be in view of resumption, but at present fix no definite time when it shall take place. We feel certain that, so far as the Executive Department is concerned, under the new administration, it will be conducted with the most rigid economy necessary to a wise and just administration of its affairs. The country expects this of Gen. Grant, and we are sure it will not be disappointed. Let Congress do likewise, and specie payment will come so easily and imperceptibly as almost to be unnoticed by the country.

The Ohio Legislature meets next Monday. We shall endeavor to keep our readers fully informed of its doings.

Grave charges of corruption and fraud are made against the Post Office Department, at Washington. Contracts, it is said, have given out without regard to law or justice, and at the most extravagant prices. A case in point is stated. A contractor in Arizona Territory gets \$90,000 a year, to carry the mail over a certain route, and has already been paid for two years' service, while it is said that "an ounce of mail matter has ever been carried over the route." It is no wonder that our debt is increasing, when we have officials who thus squander the public funds. It is time that they had retired. If they want to do it at their own expense, and not at that of the people. But, thanks to the people, the days of these corruptionists are numbered, and we are soon to have an honest, economical administration.

After the 4th of March next, with Gen. Grant in the Presidential chair, we look for a substantial improvement in all our governmental affairs.

The two democratic papers at Columbus—the "Crisis" and the "Statesman"—are not lovingly inclined towards each other, as brethren of the same household should be. Both say hard things of each other. The "Crisis" calls the "Statesman" a conked fool. We have no complaint to make—wholly indifferent whether it is a "Kilkenny cat fight" result, or something else.

Gen. Grant is said to be in favor of the repeal of the Tenure-of-Office Act.

The trouble between Turkey and Greece is likely not to lead to war. A conference of the leading European powers is to be held in January, and it is anticipated that a pacific solution of the question will be arrived at.

Senator Van Winkle, of West Virginia, is a candidate for re-election, but he will probably be succeeded by Governor Boreman, Governor Polley or General Powell.

Gen. Grant's Policy.

Whatever the "policy" of the new administration may be in other respects, in that of honesty and economy—rigid retrenchment—we are glad to know there is to be no uncertainty. Upon this subject Gen. GRANT, it seems, speaks his mind freely—there is no uncertain sound in his words upon this part of his "policy"—and the country will thank him for it. In a conversation with several members of Congress, a few days since, says the correspondent of the N. Y. Tribune, Gen. GRANT spoke with emphasis upon this subject:

"He said, substantially, it was very apparent to every man in the country that our finances needed the closest attention, and that it is vitally important, if we intend to pay off the national debt and lighten taxation, to practice the most rigid economy, and the place to begin with is the bills that are pending in Congress granting further subsidies to the Pacific and other Railroads. No matter what may be said about the prospective benefit we are to derive from these roads, it is too long to wait, and we should make the best possible use of our present resources, without increasing the burden of our debt by incurring expensive risks which are hazardous. The Congressmen who were at the time the Pacific and other Railroads were authorized, and who are now in the ranks with which the General expressed his views, while they one and all pledged him their support."

Editorially the Tribune says: We have splendid news from Washington. General Grant has taken a step which will endear him still more to every patriot. Instead of waiting for the hour of his new office, he announces a "policy" that will do more good than a thousand orations. He demands from Congress honesty and economy. The time to squander has ceased; and if our easygoing Representatives intend to vote millions for every plausible scheme, it must be done over the veto of the new President. This simple declaration will save millions to a depleted Treasury. We must pay our debts before we can have new ones, and especially we must stop the wholesale waste of money and lands covered by the many railroad schemes. We accept Gen. Grant's declaration in the joyful hope that we have seen an end of real estate speculations in the unprofitable dominions of other countries, of immense "lawyer's fees" for Washington (and other) Justice Chases, of Indian treaties, and of the astounding frauds in the collection of the customs and taxes. Let economy be the word, and the country will respond! Any Congressman who presumes to stand in the way will be rebuked by the people. Gen. Grant is right, and the nation will give him an enthusiastic support."

We look for his coming as men who gaze through the darkest night and fervently yearn for morning. This is a sign of the coming day, and we feel assured that it will be a day of glorious and beneficent works, of economy, honesty, and peace.

The Amnesty Proclamation pleases the rebels, of course. After waging a four years war for the destruction of the best government ever known, sacrificing thereby millions of lives and untold treasures, to receive a full and free pardon therefor is enough to cause rejoicing. The following telegram from New York tells how the rebels received this Proclamation:

"The Amnesty Proclamation causes much rejoicing among ex-rebels in this city. Large numbers of them met in the afternoon at the New York Hotel to exchange congratulations, and are enjoying a dinner this evening. A vote of thanks will be sent to President Lincoln with a large number of signatures."

The Cabinet. The Washington correspondent of the Cincinnati Gazette says:—"All sorts of speculations are made here as to the probable composition of Grant's Cabinet. The only thing he has himself said about it in which there seems to be any significance is a remark he made in general conversation about the policy of the next administration. He declared that he should be against all jobs and jobbers, and for the utmost honesty and economy in the public expenditures. In this connection he spoke of the Interior Department, saying that if the Indian Bureau remained there he should consider it fully as important to have a good man at its head as at the head of the Treasury Department, and would put into it the best man he could find in the country, to the end, that the whole corrupt ring now sheltered there might be uprooted. This was said in such a way as to leave a strong impression on the minds of those who heard the remarks."

Our dispatches from Washington state that the Express, a newspaper published in that city, contains a communication which purports to reveal a discovery to the effect that President Lincoln, just before the breaking out of the war, prepared a proclamation announcing that the National Government acquiesced in the dismemberment of the Union, and that the President Lincoln wrote, or at any rate revised an editorial newspaper article sustaining and justifying the proclamation. Both of these documents, the communication states, were taken from Washington to Charleston by "a gentleman having free access to President Lincoln's private office." The communication further states that the reason which prevented the promulgation of the document was "the intense feeling aroused by the firing on the Star of the West." It will be of assistance in estimating the importance of this pretended discovery to remember that the firing on the Star of the West occurred on the 9th day of January, 1861, nearly two months before Mr. Lincoln was inaugurated President, or had any private office in Washington to which any gentleman could have access free or otherwise. At the time the Star of the West was fired upon James Buchanan was President of the United States, and the preparation of such a document by him would not have been entirely out of character.—Cin. Gazette.

Johnson's Last Infamy.

President Johnson, on Christmas day, issued a proclamation of pardon to all Rebels. It makes no exceptions, but is a full pardon to all who directly or indirectly participated in the late rebellion. We give it elsewhere. In view of it, the Cincinnati Gazette well says: The Acting President of the United States, who entered upon the duties of the office of Vice President with the loudly vaunted declaration that "treason must be made odious," and who, ever since, has exercised all his constitutional and usurped powers to make it at least as respectable as loyalty, now, at the end of his term of office, caps and completes the unhandsome work which his vanity designates "My Policy," of which propriety no man of sense or patriotism will wish to rob him) by a proclamation of universal amnesty and pardon to all who engaged in or criminally aided the rebellion. This treacherous act of impudent clemency is a fit climax of his public life. No man who loves the Republic, no man who wishes humanity well, no man who respects official integrity will regret the dismissal into obscurity of a demagogue who has been the most utterly selfish and the most unfortunately successful of American politicians. His chief usefulness henceforth will be as an illustrious example to the ambitious youth of the Republic of the vices which degrade public life, and win for an officer the contempt of his countrymen. When the tactics of the future shall write the history of this era, he will pronounce the confidence reposed by the Union party in Andrew Johnson the stupendous blunder and misfortune of the civil war in America.

Of its reception in Washington, the correspondent of the Cincinnati Commercial says:

THE PRESIDENT'S PROCLAMATION. Of general amnesty is one of the leading subjects of discussion here, and a variety of opinions have been expressed in reference to it. It is held by some that the proclamation is merely oratorical; that it can have no possible effect on the course of events connected with the rebels now under indictment, and that the Supreme Court must settle all questions which the proclamation assumes to decide. Others say that the general amnesty ought to have been declared last July; and that it is a dead letter at any rate; that the question of pardon should be settled by the Davis trial, if it ever occurred, and that no other cases would have arisen in any event.

Some of the lawyers believe the President has no right to pardon persons awaiting trial, while others affirm that he has (under the Justice Chase), and that if the President has a right to pardon after conviction and while undergoing sentence, he also has a right to pardon before trial. Mr. McCree, of Kentucky, said to-day that General John C. Breckinridge would return to that State at once from his exile.

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UNIVERSAL AMNESTY AND PARDON.

The Exceeding Odiousness of Treason Made Plain.

WASHINGTON, D.C., December 25. By the President of the United States of America:

A PROCLAMATION. WHEREAS, The President of the United States has heretofore set forth several proclamations, offered amnesty and pardon to persons who had been, or were concerned in the late rebellion against the lawful authority of the government of the United States, which proclamations were severally issued on the 8th day of December, 1863; on the 26th day of March, 1864; on the 29th day of May, 1865; on the 7th day of September, 1867; and on the 4th day of July, of the present year; and

WHEREAS, The authority of the Federal government having been re-established in all the States and Territories within the jurisdiction of the United States, it is believed that such Presidential reservations and exceptions as at the dates of said several proclamations, were deemed necessary and proper, may be wisely and justly relinquished, and that an universal amnesty and pardon for participation in said rebellion, extended to all who have borne any part therein, will tend to secure permanent peace, order and prosperity throughout the land, and to renew and fully restore confidence and fraternal feeling among the whole people, and their respect for, and attachment to the National government—designed by its patriotic founders for the general good;

Now, therefore, be it known, that I, Andrew Johnson, President of the United States, by virtue of the power and authority in me vested by the Constitution, and in the name of the sovereign people of the United States, do hereby proclaim and declare, unconditionally, and without reservation, to all and to every person who directly or indirectly participated in the late insurrection or rebellion a full pardon and amnesty for the offense of treason against the United States, or of adhering to their enemies during the late civil war, with the restoration of all rights, privileges and immunities, which have been made in punishment thereof.

In testimony whereof I have signed these presents with my hand, and have caused the seal of the United States to be hereunto affixed.

Done at the City of Washington, the twenty-fifth day of December, in the year of our Lord eighteen hundred and sixty-eight, and of the independence of the United States of America the ninety-third.

Signed: ANDREW JOHNSON. By the President. F. W. SEWARD, Acting Sec. of State.

WONDERFUL DISCOVERY.

The Largest Skeleton Ever Found. [From the Sanx Rapids Sentinel, 18th.]

Day before yesterday, while the quarry men employed by the Sanx Rapids Water Power Company were engaged in quarrying rock for the dam which is being erected across the Mississippi at this place, they found imbedded in the solid granite rock the remains of a human being of gigantic stature. About seven feet below the surface of the ground, and about three feet and a half beneath the upper stratum of rock, the remains were found imbedded in the sand, which had evidently been placed in the quadrangular grave which had been dug out of the solid rock to receive the last remains of this antediluvian giant. The grave was twelve feet in length, four feet wide, and about three feet in depth, and is to day at least two feet below the present level of the river. The remains are completely petrified, and are of gigantic dimensions. The head is massive, and measures thirty-one and one-half inches in circumference, but low in the os frontis, and very flat on top. The femur measures twenty-six and a quarter inches, and the tibia twenty-five and a half, while the body is equally long in proportion. From the crown of the head to the sole of the foot the length is ten feet nine and a half inches. The measure around the chest is fifty-nine and a half inches. This giant must have weighed at least 900 pounds when covered with a reasonable amount of flesh. The petrified remains, and there is nothing left but the naked bones, now weigh 304 pounds. The thumb and fingers of the left hand, and the left foot, from the ankle to the toes, are gone; but all the other parts are perfect. Over the sepulchre of the unknown dead was placed a large flat limestone rock that remained perfectly separated from the surrounding granite rock.

These wonderful remains of an antediluvian, gigantic race are in the possession of a gentleman who had started with it to his residence East. This gentleman, it is said, will send the remains to Boston, and possibly we may hear all that can be said on the subject by the learned in these things. It is supposed by some of our ablest men, among whom is General Thomas, that many more skeletons will be found during the process of excavating the granite rocks at this place. Some seem to think that these remains were deposited in this sarcophagus prior to the formation of the present strata of rocks that now abound here; but this is mere conjecture.

Wealth of Ohio.

The valuation of the property of Ohio for taxation in 1868 has been completed. It shows 25,144,680 acres of land, valued at \$500,846,299, being an average of \$20 per acre. There is a total of 227,385 acres less than in 1867, reducing the aggregate assessment \$305,565. The total value of the chattel property of the State is \$460,008,899, a decrease of \$4,752,123 from last year. The real estate of towns and cities amounts to